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ROCKS AHEAD.

In spite of all that has been written, in spite of books, magazine articles, and newspaper articles, in spite of lectures, stereopticon talks and social talks, the fact remains that the bulk of people on the mainland know very little about us. It was only the other day that one of the teachers passing through to Manila commented upon the fact that Honolulu had the appearance of an American town. The reply was "Why this is an American town. You are still in the United States." And then she said "Do you know I always thought that the Hawaiian Islands belonged to Japan!" This dandel was going to help to teach the Filipinos geography. It is to be hoped her Asiatic geography is of a somewhat better brand than her cosmographic views upon the Pacific.

Now ignorance of our conditions matters little to us unless it affects national legislation. When it affects that it becomes dangerous to us. That danger is threatening us. At the last session of Congress there appeared a bill, introduced by Congressman Kahn of California, to deport all lepers from the United States to Molokai. Mark the word "Molokai." The bill did not pass. But it will appear again at the next session, and it is well for us to know that the whole California delegation is instructed to push the new bill to the uttermost. This is danger, real danger, and what are we going to do about it. It means danger to our tourist business. It means danger to us as a health resort. We had better face the difficulty. We cannot hope to do much, but we may do something.

We have been unfortunate in using the word "Molokai," the name of the whole island, for Kalaupapa the small promontory which forms the leper settlement, and which is really only a very small fraction of the island. The idea on the mainland is that we have a whole island set apart for the purpose. The argument used is, here is an entire island, 2,100 miles out in the Pacific, isolated from the rest of the Hawaiian group, why should it not be used for others besides Hawaiians. The speakers on the mainland have no idea that the main part of the island is private property of great value. The expression "sent to Molokai" makes them think of a government reservation including the whole island.

It is almost needless to point out what a terrible result would be reached, if people of the class suggested should be turned loose in our little settlement. Things do not go smoothly there always, even under present conditions, but the place would become a veritable Pandemonium if the views of the California delegation should be carried out. However unpleasant the subject may be we have to take it into consideration. It is no little cloud which can be dissipated by a breath, it is a question which must be met. How to meet it is a question for the very gravest thought.

CIRCE.

It is a curious thing that the career of a bad woman is attractive to the eyes of a large proportion of humanity. Our modern papers give big space to such a subject, and illustrate lavishly. The old annals, even of the monks, give space to stories told of these syrens—occasionally they died in the odor of sanctity—and gossiping books from the time of Suetonius who wrote in the second century of our era, to Harry Greville who told the early and middle-Victorian gossip, cannot avoid countless pages upon the subject. Society memoirs reek with such stuff.

The ancient pagan to a certain extent was right. He represented woman as an evil influence. She might be beautiful, she was beautiful, but she led him astray from his ideal. She was Circe and turned men into pigs. This was in the legend of Ulysses.

The Christian came and found the same trouble that the Greek and Roman had done, and the Egyptian, the Babylonian and so on to the remotest antiquity, far beyond our feeble historical ken. He fulminated wrath upon woman kind, but finally came to a compromise. A woman who embraced celibacy and became the bride of heaven was certainly worthy of heaven, and there was even a chance for respectable matrons.

Mahometanism could not eliminate women from the world, so it endured them to a considerable extent. But it considered them, and does consider them as inferior creatures, and gives them no hope in the hereafter.

Modern thought gives woman a very different place. But sections of womanhood prefer to wallow in the position of Circe and the other disreputable forerunners of their race. We have them in our large cities, veritable witches, batten on the bones of the young and the foolish, and casting them aside, as the rich carcass has been sucked dry. Modern civilization has not done away with the race, and it is doubtful whether it has made it any more polished or less rapacious. The possibility is that that polish makes the syren more attractive, and rapacity cannot be increased.

Take up a few histories and see what a list there is of baleful women, yet beautiful women, who ruled, moulded

or changed the route of the world's progress. No one could attempt hastily to give a complete list, but take some samples. Semiramis, Cleopatra, Theodora, Bruneau, Catherine de Medici, Pompadour, who each and everyone were wicked beyond description, and each helped to wreck brilliant men, and plunge mankind into oceans of blood. Each of these blazes on the page of history, an evil genius of the country that nursed her from her birth.

But there are others which if they have not wrecked nations and plunged them into war and tumult have wrought individual destruction, and signal destruction at that. History counts them. We have Jane Shore, Fair Rosamond, Francesca de Rimini, Lucrecia Borgia, Brinvilliers, Louise de Querouailles, Lala Montez, Schneider Mabel Grey, and we can run down into our own time and see the same wreck and destruction.

It is a list of extraordinary beauty, of brilliant talent, of exquisite taste in dress according to the age in which each lived. But it is a list of dead men's bones, murder, poison, ruin, suicide and all kinds of horrors. It is a list of false ideals and ruined hopes. Curious that what seems a god given gift should prove so fatal, should be but the apples of Sodom, the Dead Sea fruit, so fair to the eye, and but dust and ashes in the mouth.

The above ideas naturally spring to one's mind in reading of May Yohe and Mayor Strong's son, a case which is filling columns of the papers at the present time. A Pennsylvanian of great beauty she captivated Lord Francis Hope, was married and squandered millions which the young man had inherited. Captain Strong whom she has now captivated is a young man of moderate wealth, of high social position in New York and an American soldier of some reputation. He has cast all to the winds for the sake of a woman no better and no worse than those who have been cited in this article as filling some of them niches, others of them pages in history and in historical works. It is curious that this should be so. Let all of us who have good pure homes, and who may be bothered about the "res angusta domi," the means of carrying it on, thank God that it is pure and good, and that even poverty can give true happiness which wealth and vice cannot.

The population of Europe is 300,000,000. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is 41,000,000. Some one was asking The Star for these figures the other day.

Now that there so many young University men in the city, it would be a good idea if a University crew were got together to race our club crews. Anything for healthy competition and sport.

The Carter-Rathburn embroglio has reached the point of a warrant on behalf of Rathburn against Carter for assault, the latter having twice fired at him with a revolver. It is a very pretty story.

The heat wave still continues and seems now to have struck Europe. The most humorous thing that is reported about it is that the English judges have been unable to sit in their wigs. If the heat wave would bring about the abolishing of the wig both from Judge and barristers, it would not have come upon the world in vain. We may congratulate ourselves upon our equable climate. After reading about the heat in the temperate zone, one positively feels cool in Honolulu.

Charles Nordhoff, who has completed his life's work, was well known here at one time. He wrote of the beauties of the Islands, as he had written of California, though not in so exhaustive a manner. He then made another expedition to combat annexation and to write articles inimical to the Provisional Government. He received his information from prejudiced sources and produced bitter vindictive and untrue statements. But this episode can be forgotten. Mr. Nordhoff came to do certain work and did it. One would remember not the biased political Nordhoff, but the Nordhoff, the cultivated gentleman, the polished writer, Nordhoff who could see and could describe the beauties of nature. As such, those who knew him here in times past, will like to remember him and he will prove a pleasant and an agreeable memory. Without reaching to "cat-naps" as a writer, Nordhoff was above the average of the bulk of his colleagues, and eliminating prejudice, his writings were always worth reading.

As showing the scope of enquiries into fisheries the following is an example. The Imperial Russian Association of Fisheries will hold an international exposition in February and March, 1902, at St. Petersburg, for the purpose of showing the condition of the fresh and salt water fisheries of the world. The expense of the exposition will be defrayed by the association, the Crown, the municipal government, private contributions, and by charges for exhibition space and for the admission of visitors. Premiums will be awarded in the form of gold, silver, and bronze medals, diplomas of honor, and money prizes. The exposition will have nine departments, as follows: (1) Fisheries in general; (2) salt and fresh water fisheries; (3) implements used in the fisheries industry; (4) products of the fisheries; (5) manner and means for preserving fish; (6) arrangement of fish hatcheries; (7) fishing sport; (8) aquariums and their inmates; (9) scientific researches concerning the lives of fishes, etc. Some of our fish should be sent there.

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